

[Mr. P. S. Mahomed.]

ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അത് ആവശ്യമാണെന്നും അതിനെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് തന്നെയാണ് റെഗുലേഷൻ പാസാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളത്. ആയതുകൊണ്ട് അതിനെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞ് റെ കൗൺസിലിന്റെ സമയം ചിലവഴിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഒരു റെഗുലേഷൻ പാസാക്കികഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അത് കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യുന്നത് തന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ നിലയ്ക്കും അന്തസ്സിനും വളരെ യോജിച്ചതുമാണ്. അനേകകാലമായി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താതെ അവയെ ഭീർഘിപ്പിക്കുന്നവർക്കും വേണ്ടസംഗതികൾ ജാഗ്രതയായി നടത്തുന്നില്ല എന്നൊരു ന്യൂനത വന്നുചേരുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ റെഗുലേഷൻ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I have very great pleasure to say that I accept the resolution.

PRESIDENT: The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.

RESOLUTION *RE* REGISTRY OF TANK-BEDS ETC.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"This Council recommends to the Government that the poramboke lands consisting of tanks and beds of rivers and canals and the lands adjoining them lying in paddy fields should not be registered or auctioned and that, where such registry or auction already effected is found to be detrimental to the public interests, they should be acquired by the Government under the Land Acquisition Regulation."

Sir, ever since the representative institutions have been granted to the people of this State, the representatives were hammering into the ears of the Government the necessity for increasing the irrigation facilities for the cultivators of paddy fields. Paddy is the chief food crop of Travancore and it is absolutely necessary that the Government should provide all facilities for the cultivators of paddy so that our position at least as regards our food crops might be self-sufficient. In spite of all that, I am extremely sorry to say that the Government have not taken proper steps in the matter. Two resolutions were passed in this Council more than five years ago requesting the Government at least to allot not less than six lakhs of rupees in one resolution and three lakhs of

rupees in another resolution for constructing irrigation works in the State. Though the Chief Engineer accepted these resolutions I am sorry to say that they have not increased the amount allotted for irrigation works to any considerable extent. I must admit that I am likely to be accused of over-modesty when I request the Government to do a negative thing. It is merely a negative thing, that is to say, not to register poramboke lands consisting of tanks and beds of rivers and canals and lands adjoining them lying in paddy fields. If the Government at any time come prepared to accept the request of the people to provide more irrigation facilities for the cultivators of paddy lands, I may assure the Government that—if they are going to proceed like this in registering tanks and canals and rivers—they will find it very difficult to acquire lands for constructing or repairing canals and tanks. It is a very important matter. Now, whenever the Government find that any portion of a canal or tank is silted up, instead of repairing it immediately, they register it in the names of private individuals and we see what the result is. There is not sufficient convenience for the agriculturists to irrigate their lands by the water from such canals, tanks and rivers. The auction purchasers or registered holders raise the level of these lands. The overflow of flood-water and fertilisation-silt from these rivers and canals are obstructed. That means the productivity of the lands which were benefited by such rivers and canals have suffered very much and the paltry sum which is now obtained as the value of the lands sold or auctioned or registered does not, after all, increase the revenue of the State to a considerable extent. Even if it increases the revenue of the State to a great extent, I request that the Government should desist from proceeding with this policy in the future. The great difficulty as regards the indiscriminate way in which these lands are registered arises owing to the following reasons. The Government have entrusted this business mainly to the Land Revenue Department. Every year this department desires to go up to the mark and wants to show that the income from this item does not go down from that of the previous year. The result is that each Tahsildar desires to find out as many bits of *poramboke* lands which may be available for registry as possible so that he might not be styled inefficient at the close of the year. He is not in any way directly responsible for the improvement of the agriculture of the State. The Government have issued a circular or an order saying that where parts of canals or rivers are to be registered the Land Revenue authorities may consult the P. W. D. authorities. The P. W. D. authorities also do not care very much for the improvement of paddy cultivation. All that they care to see is that the flood-water, the water which comes from higher levels, must find free flow into the sea and so wherever such flow is checked they naturally raise objection. They do not care for the lie of the paddy lands and how these lands are being benefited by the particular canals and rivers. Therefore whenever they find that by registering a particular piece of *poramboke* land the free flow of flood water to the adjoining lands is not checked that the bunds are not likely to give way, they also support

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it. Owing to this reason the agriculturists are finding very great difficulty in maintaining the high level of cultivation which is necessary for meeting the requirements of this State as regards our chief crop. To bring home to the Government the importance of this resolution and the anxiety of the taluk authorities in registering the lands in spite of very strong protests from the people, I will cite one or two instances. A particular individual wanted to get the registry of a tank in Valiakuzhi pakuthy in the Karthikapally taluk some four years back. The people protested against it to the Taluk authorities, to the Dewan Peishkar and also to the Government and to the other authorities concerned. The Tahsildar at first said that it should not be registered. Afterwards he found that it could be auctioned. I do not want to go into the reason why he changed his opinion or what prompted him to do so. But the fact remains that the people protested against it. The Revenue authorities at last said that it could be done if the Engineering Department had no objection. So the Assistant Engineer inspected the place. The Executive Engineer also inspected the place. I am told that this year the Chief Engineer was also asked to inspect that plot and now it seems that the Chief Engineer, I am not sure, has also reported that there is not much objection. Sir, why should the Government be so much anxious with regard to the registry of such lands, when the people of the locality strongly object to it?

PRESIDENT : I can assure you, Mr. Damodaran Asan, that the Government on no single occasion come forward begging the people to have the lands registered in their names.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*) : I simply said that the Government are anxious to register the lands in spite of the objections of the neighbouring landholders.

PRESIDENT : That is exactly the reason why you imply that the Government go asking the people to have the lands registered.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*) : The Government have been willing to auction that tank in spite of very strong protest from the cultivators of the adjoining lands. If the Government are not anxious to do so, I will be very glad. That is all I can say. But from this instance I find that it has been otherwise.

Almost all the *punja* lands lying north of the Karunagapalli taluk are fertilised by the silt of flood-water of rivers and canals. Now, the productivity of the lands has been reduced to such an extent that no human effort can replace it. But the Government do not seem to have realised this fact. In the Kartikapalli taluk, I know of so many instances of the registry of lands adjoining rivers; and such registries are being made even now in the names of private individuals. Some of these registries are in the names of members of the depressed classes. Several petitions have been sent by the people of Cheruthana, Karuvatta and other pakuthies of the taluk, to the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Dewan Peishkar and all other revenue authorities protesting against such registry; and I have interpellated Government on

the subject. It may be said that these lands are registered in the names of members of the depressed classes. Sir, I have absolutely no objection to the registry of all the available lands in the State in favour of the depressed classes, but such registry should not affect prejudicially the interests of cultivators of paddy lands. When the Government register lands adjoining rivers and channels in the names of private individuals, particularly members of the depressed classes who have no garden lands to live upon, the individuals immediately raise the level of these lands, and the free overflow of flood-water and fertilisation-silt is obstructed to a considerable extent.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഈ പാടങ്ങളുടെ ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുതന്നെ പതിച്ചു കൊടുത്താലോ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Even that I object to; because when a registry is effected in the name of a particular individual his right of raising the level of the registered holding is not in any way restricted; and so, if he wants, he can make it a big *chira* with cocoanut and other plantations.

Even if he does not care about the interests of his paddy lands, the interests of the adjoining paddy lands will be prejudicially affected. As for that matter, a particular individual may have five *paras* of paddy land by the bank of a river and there may be about 5,000 acres of paddy land, belonging to others, benefited by the fertilisation-silt of that river. The former can very easily ruin the owners of the 5,000 acres. Such power should not be given to any individual.

MR. TAMARAPALLIL KOCHUTOMMAN (*Pattanamittu*): ആറുകര കര പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു എന്താണു ഭോഷം?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I am arguing the matter in English and if the member is not able to understand, I am sorry. I was submitting, Sir, that when these lands are registered in the names of private individuals, the registered holders, particularly if they happen to be members of the depressed classes, naturally raise the level, and thereby the free overflow of fertilisation-silt is checked. So, Government should take adequate steps to stop registry of lands altogether if possible.

Secondly, what I have to request the Government to do is wherever the registries that have already been made are found to be detrimental to public interests—I confine myself to such cases and I do not speak of *all* registries that have been effected hitherto the Government should acquire the land under the Land Acquisition Regulation. The people of such localities have protested against such registry and are still protesting. So, in all such cases where the people protest against such registry, the Government should acquire the lands. If the Government do not do it, I may assure them that they will be doing a great dis-service to the whole public in general and to the whole of the agricultural population of the State in particular. If at a future date the Government launch an irrigation scheme and

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have to acquire these lands for the purpose, they will then find that the registered holders would have effected valuable improvements in these lands; and the Government will have to pay very huge sums as compensation. Moreover, until these lands are acquired again by the Government the people will suffer. As I have already submitted, the Government should first of all desist from registering or auctioning the kinds of *porambores* mentioned in my resolution, and secondly, in cases where it is found that the registries that have already been effected work detriment to public interests, the Government should acquire such lands.

Sir, this is the most modest resolution which I can bring forward in the interests of the agricultural population of the State. I have sent in another resolution recommending to Government the expenditure of not less than 10 lakhs of rupees annually for irrigation and I may move it later on. In order that Government may be in a position to help the agriculturists of the State with good irrigation facilities, I request Government to accept this resolution without any modification or reservation. Even America which does not depend solely on agriculture, which depends on industry also to a very large extent, is spending large sums of money every year for irrigation purposes. President Hoover also has stated that he is prepared to spend a few hundred million dollars for irrigation works. But, Sir, here, I do not ask the Government to spend any big sum for that purpose. I only say 'please stop this destructive work and save the agriculturists from the evil effects of the registry of useful *porambores*; and wherever the registries that have already been effected work hardship to the agriculturist, please acquire such *porambores*'.

With these words, I place the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): I strongly support the resolution brought forward by Mr. Asan. The economic condition of Travancore is not quite satisfactory. As a result of the carelessness of the heads of departments the people have been put to a lot of difficulties and untold miseries. To speak of South Travancore alone, some months back several thousands of cattle were carried away by cattle disease. Now cholera is raging there. This is the net result of the course of action adopted by heads of departments who are mainly responsible for the sale of tank-beds which they considered unserviceable. My point is, Sir, that these tank-beds are serviceable not only to human beings but also to cattle in times of difficulty. These tank-beds form good source of help to these voiceless beings, I mean, cattle. The officers of Government have already sold something like 2,000 acres of land in South Travancore. Government may put forward as their justification the fact that they have spent a large amount of money in the Kodayar Project. I may point out that by the sale of lands alone Government have already got Rs. 20 lakhs and more. That is certainly creditable from the point of view of the machinery of Government. But, in the long run the result will be the utter ruin of the agriculturists.

as a whole. The inevitable has happened and the people are now clamouring for help from the Government. As matters stand at present the unemployment problem is becoming keener and keener day after day and the Government are not able to meet the problem. Perhaps we cannot throw the whole blame upon Government. There is a limit up to which Government can help us. They cannot give employment for all. But it is certainly their duty to provide means for increasing the prosperity of the people, by giving proper facilities to the agriculturists. Therefore, if the Government will stop disposing of these tank-beds, I think, they will be doing very useful service to the people of the State. One point has to be noted in this connection. There is one special circumstance which requires careful looking into. Several of these tank-beds that have been sold away by the Government are now in the hands of retired Government servants. So, there is something in it. This is a matter which has to be enquired into. As I have already submitted, the Government should take proper steps to prevent further registry.

Then again, on account of the registry of *porambokes* by the side of rivers, several of these rivers have become very narrow so that during floods several breaches occur and the Government have to spend large sums of money to repair the damages caused by floods. So, on account of the registry of these *porambokes* the Government are also put to unnecessary loss. I therefore strongly press the matter for the attention of the Government and request that they should take every possible step to discourage further registry of tank-beds and river and channel *porambokes*. With these words, I support the resolution of Mr. Damodaran Asan.

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Sir, I also wish to give my support to the resolution. The mover comes from Central Travancore and the seconder comes from South Travancore and I think only North Travancore remains to be represented in the present instance (*Laughter*).

So far as I can see, this is a problem which cannot be entirely solved by the Government alone. The increase in the extent of cultivable land in the State does not bear any adequate proportion to the increase in population. Naturally, therefore, every inch of land that can possibly be registered will be applied for and obtained by the people, whatever may be the result of such registry in future. In fact, so far as I know—I speak with reference to North Travancore since I do not know much about South or Central Travancore—the registry of *porambokes* is effected not due to the pressure of Government, on the local revenue officers, to collect as much money as possible. But.....

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I know whether there are tank and channel *porambokes* in North Travancore?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Certainly, river-beds also.

So, in the present instance I think it is a case of 'Save us from ourselves'. Because, particularly in the case of these tank-beds, when it is found that they are not used for some years, they are sold out and the

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purchasers level them up and cultivate them. Though some people raise objections to such registry, it is practically found in almost all cases that these tanks were not serving any useful purpose, that the Government were also not willing to do anything to make them useful to the people and that therefore, as the best course, Government sold these lands to people who wanted them, and thereby increased their revenue.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Does the member think that the repair of these tanks will be of use to the people?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Certainly; my point is that there is not as much fault on the part of Government as on that of the people.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Does the member know that the Government are the proprietors of these lands?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Certainly.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is it not the duty of the Government to see that they do not alienate these lands to the prejudice of the public at large?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): I may inform my friend that several of the officers of Government are not men with any statesmanlike vision. They are enthusiastic about these registries, because, these will enable them to show an increase in revenue which may fetch them some good remarks from their superiors or from Government. Government are of course at fault, in one way, namely, in not saving us from ourselves. We are clamouring for lands because we have no lands. Some among us may know the ultimate danger of these registries. But not all. It is therefore the duty of the Government to step in and to stop registry of tank-beds and other similar *poramboke* lands entirely.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Does the member think that the Government exhausted all their other resources before they began to register away their lands?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): My point is that it is not the Government that want to register away their lands. It is the people who want these lands to be registered in their names. They are prepared to pay any amount by way of bribe to the officers in order that they may get the lands. As a matter of fact, all the money that the people spend does not go to Government actually. The Proverthikar is really the man who registers the lands. The Tahsildar, the Peishkar and the Revenue Commissioner simply say 'ditto' to what the Proverthikar says. That is the actual state of affairs.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunrattur*): May I know whether the registry of these lands is injurious to the interests of the public at large?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): I have all along been saying that it is injurious to the public at large and that the Government should put a stop to this registry altogether, so that there may not be any opportunity for the officers or for private individuals to get these lands registered. I am only trying to do justice to Government also in this matter.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the member is supporting or opposing the resolution?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Certainly, I am supporting the resolution. I am for absolute prohibition of the registry of tank-beds and river and channel *porambores*. But my point is that if the Government stop this registry they will be saving us from ourselves. That is my position, to put it briefly.

There is also another difficulty in regard to these channels and tank-beds. In none of these taluks is there any register of such *porambores*. The officers of the Public Works Department, who are practically blamed by the people for not doing anything in the interest of irrigation, have absolutely no data to proceed upon. They have not been provided with any list of these canal and tank-beds or river beds. They do not know what are the *porambores* that should not be registered in the interests of irrigation. In order to bring this absolute prohibition of further registry of these *porambores* into effect what I suggest is that the Revenue authorities of the taluk and the Division Officers of the Public Works Department should be provided with a complete list of these *porambores*. If necessary, even a small local committee may be appointed to consider whether all the existing canals or tanks or portions of them are necessary for irrigation purposes and whether any portion of these *porambores* may not be utilised for cultivation. The P. W. D. authorities have now absolutely no data to go upon. That is their position at present.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know who is the person to decide whether a particular *poramboke* is absolutely necessary for irrigation?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): For the present, the Government should decide, or a local committee like the one that I suggested just a while ago.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know which officer of the Government the member has in view when he says that the Government should decide?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): Unfortunately at present there is no properly constituted authority on the spot. As such, at present the Tahsildar or the Peishkar may decide.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has it not been stated in this House just a while ago that these local officers are often influenced by corruption?

MR. A. G. MENON (*Parur*): That cannot be said with much force in regard to this matter. I am now speaking only of the preliminary

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enquiry when there is nothing to be gained by anybody. The officer has simply to investigate and say whether such and such area is likely to be useful for irrigation purposes or whether it may be registered away. It is to obviate such difficulties that I suggested a local committee to decide what all lands should be left unregistered. It is only with the help of such an agency that we can get real data. I would therefore advocate that a list of *porambokes* should be prepared as early as possible and supplied to all the Taluk and Division Officers; and Government should order that under no circumstances will these *porambokes* be registered in the names of private individuals. That is practically the only way by which the Government can save us from our own selves.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*) : It was with the object of supplementing the irrigation facilities that the Kodayar Reservoir was constructed. But, unfortunately, soon afterwards, Government took it into their heads to auction many of the tank-beds in Nanjanad. These tank-beds were serving as minor reservoirs in times of necessity and as flood moderators in times of flood. On account of the auction sale and registry of these *porambokes* we now find that there is scarcity of water. Some two or three months back we had scarcity of water due to failure of the monsoon and the crops failed in more than 10,000 acres for want of water. Government also had to lose their land revenue on these 10,000 acres. In times of flood these lands and the standing crops get submerged in water, thereby putting the owners of these paddy fields to a great deal of loss. Besides, several breaches occur on the banks of rivers, and Government are forced to spend large sums of money to repair them. I know there are many of these breaches which have not yet been repaired although it is now more than four or five years since they occurred. I hope these facts would have made it clear to Government that the sale of tank-beds in South Travancore has caused great loss to the people there. In certain cases this has led to great damage to the salt factories also. The registry of these tank-beds is threatening the whole of Travancore itself as can be easily seen from the rise in the price of paddy and rice. I therefore strongly support Mr. Damodaran Asan's resolution.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Sir, the fact that the registry of these tank-beds and canals has caused great hardship to the people cannot be denied. But the question is whether this resolution, as it stands at present, can be accepted. The resolution of my friend Mr. Damodaran Asan contains two definite recommendations. One is that *poramboke* lands, consisting of tanks, rivers and canals and lands adjoining these, should not be registered away or sold in auction. And the second is that where such registry or auction already effected is found to be detrimental to the interests of agriculture in the State, such lands should be acquired under the Land Acquisition Regulation. From the latter it is clear that Mr. Asan himself concedes

that there are lands adjoining these *porambokes* the registry of which will not be detrimental to the interests of agriculture and which can therefore be registered or sold in auction.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I do not think my resolution concedes any such thing.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): The resolution clearly says that where such registry is found to be detrimental to the interests of agriculture the land should be acquired by Government under the Land Acquisition Regulation. This naturally leads us to the inference that where the registry is *not* found to be detrimental to the interests of agriculture the land need not be acquired by Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Where it is found to be detrimental, that is what is stated in the resolution. It may not be possible in all cases to find out whether the registry is detrimental to agriculture or not.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): If I remember correctly, Mr. Damodaran Asan clearly stated in his speech that all the lands, that have been registered away so far need not be acquired and that only those that are found to be absolutely necessary in the interests of agriculture need be acquired by Government. I believe, I am not wrong. There are the notes of the Shorthand Reporters. So, as I have already submitted, the resolution contemplates two classes of lands, namely, one the registry of which has affected the interests of agriculture detrimentally and the other which has not so affected. Therefore, the resolution, as it is worded at present, cannot be a basis for the Government to act upon unless an enquiry is made as to what all lands are absolutely necessary in the interests of agriculture and what all are not. For that purpose a resolution has been tabled by Mr. Kesava Pillai and that has been balloted for discussion tomorrow. It runs as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Government to investigate and report about the number of tank-beds, tanks and channels that may be made useful for irrigation in the State."

If that resolution is carried and a report obtained we will be in a better position to know which of these *porambokes* may be registered and which not. Therefore, I would strongly request Mr. Damodaran Asan to withdraw the resolution.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I may state at the outset that the Government are in full sympathy with what the non-official members have said on this subject. But the only condition which I would request Mr. Damodaran Asan to introduce in his resolution is to add the words '*as far as possible*' after the words '*This Council recommends to the Government that*'. With that condition Government can accept the resolution. I will explain the reason why such a condition, is necessary.

PRESIDENT: I presume you are now speaking with reference to the first part of the resolution alone.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Yes, Sir.

MR. A. S. DAMCDARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Karikappalli*): I hope even now registration is effected only *as far as possible*.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am coming to that. I may state with regard to this resolution that the Government are in entire sympathy with the proposal made by the member. The existing *Puduvai* Rules contain ample provision for tank-beds, rivers or canals being inspected in the first instance by the Tahsildar, and for the opinion of the P. W. D. Officers being obtained before steps for registry are taken. In the case of the tank-beds with in the area commanded by the Kodayar Project, Government have specifically ordered that the registration of such tank-beds should be jealously scrutinised with reference to considerations of storage, distribution, flood-moderation and irrigation, as well as communal uses. Government have also directed that no tank-bed should be brought under registry, unless such registry is certified to be unobjectionable by a P. W. D. Officer not below the rank of an Executive Engineer, and by the Dewan Peishkar of the Division, after they have made a personal inspection in each case. As a matter of fact the Chief Engineer personally inspects all tank-beds, the registry of which is applied for. The Rules have also been amended accordingly.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivannarum cum Neduvangad*): Sir, we cannot hear Mr. Robinson's speech.

PRESIDENT: I cannot hear him either.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Government are in full sympathy with what has been said by the non-official members and they are willing to accept it if the words "as far as possible" are inserted in the first part of the resolution after the words, "This Council recommends to the Government that".

These tank-beds, channels and rivers have to be inspected by the P. W. D. officer not lower than the rank of an Executive Engineer. As a matter of fact the Chief Engineer personally inspects practically all of them. As regards the member's suggestion that, if any registry is found to be detrimental to public interests the lands should be acquired by Government, I may say this is being done and there have been several instances where land has been acquired to widen the channels or to make new channels as the case might be. We are simply bombarded with applications for the registry of tank-beds, deputations come to me about it and they are all rejected. It is only in very very few cases that registry is effected. So, as the Government are in full sympathy with the resolution, I think the member might modify the resolution by putting in the words "as far as possible" in the first part.

PRESIDENT: I think you may allow some of the other Government members to speak.

MR. A. VIPAN (Chief Engineer): Sir, I regret the mover of the resolution should have thought fit to say that the P. W. D. officers take no interest in the preservation and restoration of irrigation sources.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli): What I said was the Public Works Department is not directly responsible for the agricultural development of the State.

PRESIDENT: You went very much further than that. You said that the Public Works Department neglected the interests of the agricultural population as a whole. Those are very grave and definite charges against the Public Works Department and the Chief Engineer is entitled to repudiate them.

MR. A. VIPAN (Chief Engineer): As regards improvements that are required in respect of those areas for irrigation sources throughout the State, Government have admitted that these tank-beds require improvement. Government are now considering the desirability of creating a separate agency for carrying out these works. The question of assignment of tank-beds and lands, if I may say so, is viewed with horror on the part of Government. As explained by Mr. Robinson, registry of a particular tank-bed has to be recommended by a person not lower than that of an Executive Engineer after a thorough inspection. I have myself on receipt of the Executive Engineer's report examined those tank-beds. The question of scarcity of water in Nanjand for the past two months was due to failure of monsoon and the defective rainfall. Even the existing tanks which are now maintained by the department get dried up. Even assuming that certain tank-beds have been assigned it is reasonable to suppose that those tank-beds have been dry during the past two seasons.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (Trivandrum cum Neduvangad): Sir, I also rise to support the motion brought forward by my friend Mr. Asan. The object behind the resolution is fundamentally the food supply of the country. That irrigation tanks are and were in the past the life-blood of the agricultural population in the State, will, I hope, be not denied. By assigning them away and allowing them to be filled up, the agricultural industry of the country has greatly suffered. Now, Sir, there is no reason why, in this country, where we cultivate an extent of paddy lands of about 7 lakhs and 17 thousand acres in extent for a population of 4,000,000 people should be at the mercy of other people for our food supply. 7 lakhs and 17 thousand acres of paddy lands come roughly to about 52 lakhs of paras of paddy lands. And judging at the rate of 7½ fold per each para the quantity that should have been produced in this country would be about 7 crores and 80 lakhs of paras. And calculating at the rate of *nazhi* rice per head of the population per day, we would have produced rice sufficient to feed our population. Even in the Jail a man of full height and weight and who is engaged in laborious occupation, is given only 2½ *nazhis* of rice per day. The calculation I made relates to the infant just born as well as to the old man who is nearing the grave. On an average, I can assure the Council

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I have been making extensive enquiries, I have been asking all sorts of people and they all tell me that a *nazhi* of rice per day would be sufficient to keep off starvation. Another factor that I wish to bring to the notice of this Council is, added to this the Agricultural Department accounts show that there is an out-put of tapioca which comes at the rate of 1 lb. per head of the population and during three or four months of the year this food is amply supplemented by jack fruit and throughout the year there is enough production of tapioca. There are also millions of plantains, and all kinds of food, and also rivers and tank-beds in addition. With all these materials at our disposal, that we should have gone to the extent of buying paddy, nearly between 2 and 3 thousand crores of paras, is, to me, an unthinkable situation. The main reason that compels us to go to the mercy of other people is that we have no water to irrigate our paddy lands. The Government are doing all they can and they have also the Agricultural Department devoting its full attention to the cause of agricultural industry. I will not deny, and I hope nobody will deny, that they have the best brain available in this country harnessed to the task. So far, neither the Director of Agriculture nor his Assistants have found any substitute for water. Water is all that is wanted and those scientists have not been able to find a substitute for it so long. This is the reason why agricultural industry suffers in this country. As a concrete instance I will mention the case of Anathazhachira which was very frequently mentioned in this Council. The Land Revenue Department has been resisting the idea for the last twenty five years or I might say from the time of Mr. John Kurien who has now retired, while he was Assistant Engineer. The Land Revenue Department has been persisting in the idea that that tank is capable of irrigating only 100 acres of paddy lands. The restoration of that tank has now been completed and the Government have earned the gratitude of thousands of people in the locality and it has been delayed for the reason that one proverbial took it into his head that the land will not irrigate more than hundred acres. As a result the people of those localities were called upon to contribute one half the share towards irrigation facilities. At the very first sight, when the Dewan and the Chief Engineer inspected the place, they said that that particular chira alone is capable of irrigating more than 1000 acres of paddy lands and what is the gain? Now this tank is capable of irrigating nearly 1000 acres of paddy lands. That is, the yield will be about 50,000 paras of paddy for every season; that means the people of the locality have gained to the extent of nearly one crore of rupees for a trifling sum of Rs. 15,000. I may say with regard to the Kodayar Project one thing. It has cost Government nearly a crore of rupees, and I think it is capable of irrigating 50,000 acres of paddy lands, so that for every 1,000 acres of paddy lands, it has cost the Government nearly 2 lakhs of rupees. But, for irrigating a thousand acres of paddy lands in another region, it has cost the Government only 15,000 rupees. So,

if the existing tanks and their possibilities are carefully investigated, and put in order, the problem of our food supply is very nearly solved. I say it is very unsafe to depend upon others for food supply. I shall read what a great administrator and statesman says:—

"Both a man and a nation which are dependent upon others for their daily necessities of life are at their mercy. A nation which gives up the production of its own necessities of life surrenders its economic and possibly its entire independence and so long as human frailties endure no nation should be dependent upon another for its primaries of life. Even on the continent of Europe agriculture is still by far the most important industry whether measured by the value of its products, the number of persons employed in it or by any other tests."

Anyhow I need not labour this point because I believe this question of minor irrigation is now under the discerning eyes of statesmanship and has risen to a position of major economic administrative importance. This resolution only seeks to strengthen the hands of Government or to make an additional supplication to Government to hasten their efforts in the work of restoration. All that we desire is that tanks, wherever left, ought not to be registered and tanks are not required for any other purpose. Those tanks were originally constructed by the ryots themselves and I challenge the Financial Secretary to show whether the Government have spent a single rupee for constructing those tanks. All these are the property of the people. They were all given up by the people, at the time of the settlement, and taken back as *poramboke* lands and used in the interests of the people. Now quietly, and subterraneously I may say, the Land Revenue Department has been quickly assigning them away. I have no hesitation in saying, considered from a moral point of view, that is a breach of trust because the people handed over their property to Government under the impression that the Government would make use of them in the best interests of the people as a whole.

MR V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Torala*): May I know whether there is any record to show that these tanks were once handed over to Government by the people?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): I have no records with me. But that is the presumption and a correct presumption too.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Torala*): May I know whether the member is aware that the people were paying excess tax as *kulathuvvari* and *Attuvvari*?

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): I do not know anything of that kind. As long as Government are proposing a scheme for placing the minor irrigation department under proper control and to invest responsibility in the hands of a particular individual, I do not think this resolution comes in the nature of opposition to Government. It is only a help to Government. I do not think Mr. Robinson should necessarily insist upon the insertion of the words 'as far as possible'. I do not think it is a wise principle that wherever a tank exists it should be registered. Of course the resolution now before

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the House does not come in the nature of law. It is only a recommendation to Government. If a tank is found to be entirely useless, that might be open to registry. Anyhow, we object to the insertion of the words 'as far as possible'. With these few words I strongly support the resolution.

MR. K. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I support the resolution of Mr. Asan. I have to draw the attention of Government to the importance of the existing water-ways, rivers and canals in Kuttanad. Several of the existing water-ways and irrigation canals in Kuttanad require to be widened and deepened. And for that purpose all encroachments should be found out and evicted, as the Director of Agriculture has recommended to Government the eviction of certain encroachments and the widening and deepening of the canals in Kuttanad. So, I would press to the serious attention of Government the importance of this problem. With these few words I support the resolution of Mr. Asan.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): Sir, in supporting the resolution I have to place before the House the following facts. As regards tank registry in Nanjanad I put the sum total of my speech in three words. That is, about 1300 acres of tank-beds have been sold from the year 1084 to 1102 for 13 lacs of rupees. In those areas, the tanks registered are those 7 ft. in depth, which comes to about 10,000 acres water-foot. That is, if water is filled in those tanks having an area of one thousand and odd acres there would be water sufficient to irrigate ten thousand acres of land in Nanjanad. Unfortunately, Government have erred in selling away those tanks and bringing water from a higher contour line from Pechippara side and sending it to the lowest possible level where our forefathers were feeding from tanks. This was the fault that Government committed. My friend, the Chief Engineer, was saying that they are taking care. But it is not during the present regime; so the mistake was committed long ago and I would strongly urge on the Government to reserve at least hereafter the lands adjoining L. B. C. or P. P. C. channel near the Velimalai and construct tanks in those places in lieu of the many tank-beds sold by Government. If this is done, they would not find insufficiency of water and there would be no necessity to bring water from Pechippara after paying batta and allowance.

As regards food supply, I see, from the Excise Commissioner's report for 1102, that he congratulates himself on the fact that there is a decrease in the importation and so on. One crore and ninety lakhs of rupees worth of paddy was imported from foreign countries. According to the invoice price, a sack of rice costs Rs. 5 and paddy to the extent of 40 lakhs has been imported. If 10 sacks of paddy is got from one acre of land, I am sure, 4 lakhs of acres of paddy land more would be required for the people of Travancore. So, Government, considering these facts, will have to be very very careful in regard to the registry of irrigation

channels and tank-beds. Apart from all these, intensive cultivation should be encouraged by the Agricultural Department. So, in supporting the resolution of Mr. Asan, I would lay stress on these points.

MR. REVATHINAL RAMA VARMA RAJA (Edavagai) : സർ, മിസ്റ്റർ ഓമോദരൻ ആശാന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തോടുകൂടി "as far as possible" എന്നു ചേർത്താൽ മിസ്റ്റർ ആശാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന ഫലം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു എന്ന് എനിക്കു സംശയമുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ കൈവശമിരിക്കുന്ന അവകാശത്തെ അവർ വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കാൻ മനസ്സില്ല. പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ തത്വം സമ്മതിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ അവകാശത്തെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിന് തുച്ഛിച്ചില്ല. പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതല്ല എന്നു കൗൺസിൽ മെമ്പർമാർ നിർബന്ധിക്കുമ്പോൾ "നിവർത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം" എന്ന് പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ ഇടയ്ക്ക് ഒരു ക്ലാസ്സ് കൊണ്ടിട്ട് പിന്നെയും രണ്ടു അവകാശത്തെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്നു ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശമെന്ത്? പുറമ്പോക്കുകൾ ഇപ്പോൾ പോലെ പതിച്ചു കൊടുത്ത് ഒടുവിൽ നിവർത്തി ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു എന്ന് സമാധാനം പറയുന്നതിനല്ലയോ രണ്ടു ഭേദഗതി പ്രമേയത്തിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്ന് പറയുന്നതെന്ന് എനിക്ക് സംശയമുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് പ്രമേയത്തിൽ "as far as possible" എന്ന് ചേർക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്ന് ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli) : Sir, in reply, I will begin with what Mr. Robinson said. My friend wants to include the words "as far as possible". My question is, who is the person to decide whether registry should be effected or not. Where is the impossibility in resisting from doing a thing. I am asking Government, only not to register away lands. Why should they insert the words 'as far as possible'. A little while ago my friend Mr. A. G. Menon said that the person who will be asked to decide, whether a particular registry should be effected or not, will be the local officer whom many of my friends condemn as corrupt. Is it proper to leave the management to such local officers?

PRESIDENT : The Chief Engineer and the Land Revenue Commissioner said that they are the deciding persons and I do not think they are proverthicers.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli) : What I said was, that it was only when there was objection that the matter will be brought to the notice of the Engineer or the Land Revenue Commissioner, as the case may be. We do not want to get the benefit of the local inspection of the Chief Engineer or the Land Revenue Commissioner for every minor case. There must be influential people at the

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

back to protest against the unjust actions of Government. Otherwise the matter could not be brought to the notice of the Land Revenue Commissioner or the Chief Engineer. So, I think there is absolutely no necessity for introducing the words 'as far as possible'. That will only defeat my object in view. The Government are even now auctioning lands only as far as possible and so what I have to state is that those words should not be included.

The next thing is, it seems there is some misunderstanding that I have levelled grave charges against the P. W. D. What I said was that the Chief Engineer inspects the canals and says where the flood water would freely flow. That is, he looks to the drainage. It is included in the irrigation. I never said that he neglects that. All that I said was, he does not look to the benefit that will accrue to the agricultural population. If any member has misunderstood me, I say again that I never meant that the Chief Engineer does not look into the question of drainage. All that I said was that he does not look to the benefits of the agriculturists.

Then my friend Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai said that I admit certain tanks could be registered without detriment to the public interests. My friend has not quite understood me when he levelled that charge. The second part of the resolution clearly says that where such registry or auction already effected is found to be detrimental to the public interests, they should be acquired by the Government under the Land Acquisition Regulation.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): By whom?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): By the local authorities or by the public.

What I wish to state is, that this resolution which is a modest one is intended only as a sort of interim injunction, until the whole question of irrigation is properly gone into. I will not be satisfied by the Land Revenue Commissioner or the Chief Engineer deciding which are the tanks, rivers and canals which have to be constructed, repaired or maintained. I want responsible authorities for doing that..

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Does the member think that the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Chief Engineer are not responsible officers?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I do not think that arises from my speech. So, until an expert is appointed to go into the question of irrigation and until that expert carries on investigation—

PRESIDENT: That is beside the point.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): This resolution is only intended for the action of the Government till the question of irrigation is gone into. It will be quite unsafe to leave this matter in the hands of the people who are not directly responsible for irrigation purposes. With these words I press the motion for division.

PRESIDENT : Before I put the resolution to the vote I would like to say a few words. Mr. Damodaran Asan's speech is so full of irrelevancies, inaccuracies and baseless charges that I, as Dewan-President, cannot allow that to pass unnoticed. The whole of the speech, I am inclined to feel, reveals nothing more than an attitude of Satan rebuking sin. Mr. Damodaran Asan, as an elected member of this Council, represents the general public of the State; and I must state that the general public of Travancore seem to possess a ravenous appetite for tank-beds. For the last three months the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Chief Engineer and I have been resisting, with all the strength that we are capable of, the misappropriation of the tank-beds and irrigation channels. And yet Mr. Damodaran Asan, speaking in his representative capacity, will come and advise us not to register these lands although he would like to get possession of them. So, when he comes to Government he will advise that these lands should not be registered, and this advice is very much like the proverb "carrying coals to Newcastle". Government hope to do what they have been struggling hard to do, and what you, in your representative capacity, are struggling hard to prevent. I know members of this Council—I shall not name them—who have come to me with petitions for registry of tank-beds. However, I shall let it pass. That is human nature.

Now if you ask me to accept this resolution, you are simply asking me to accept the policy or the practice of the Government for the last two or three years, of resisting, to the best of their power, the registry, acquisition of, and too often encroachment, inexcusable encroachment, by the general public upon tank-beds and sources of irrigation. If you want me to accept your resolution and keep on doing, what we are doing, I am perfectly prepared to do that. If you want me to send an officer out and find out which are the tank beds which are in occupation, or have been cultivated, for the last 20 or 30 years, I say it is an impossible task, and, on the part of Government, I must decline to give an undertaking to do the impossible.

I will ask Mr. Damodaran Asan to separate the resolution into two parts if he presses his motion, and put them separately to vote.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I press it.

PRESIDENT : You have to separate it into two parts.

I must also add that if you press it and carry it to a division, I shall immediately have to drop certain proposals that we have in progress in connection with minor irrigation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I press both the parts.

PRESIDENT : I must put both the parts of the resolution to vote. The first part runs as follows;—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the poramboke lands consisting of tanks and beds of rivers and canals and the lands adjoining them lying in paddy fields should not be registered or auctioned."

The motion was put and carried.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—24.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. V. Chellam Pillai | 13. Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai |
| 2. „ A. S. Damodaran Asan | 14. „ Matthew Murikkan |
| 3. „ A. G. Menon | 15. „ G. P. Nilakanta Pillai |
| 4. „ Ittoop Itteechan | 16. „ K. P. Nilakanta Pillai |
| 5. „ K. N. Kesavan Namputiri-
pad | 17. „ V. J. Oommen |
| 6. „ R. Kesava Pillai | 18. „ Muruvellil Pachu Pillai |
| 7. „ T. C. Kesava Pillai | 19. „ K. Padmanabha Panikkar |
| 8. „ Tamarapallil Kochu
tomman | 20. „ K. G. Paramesvaran Pillai |
| 9. „ N. K. Krishna Pillai | 21. „ L. R. Raja Raja Varma
Koil Tampuran |
| 10. „ V. S. Krishna Pillai | 22. „ R. Raman Pillai |
| 11. „ Tariatu Kunjitomman | 23. „ Revati Nal Rama Varma
Raja |
| 12. „ A. C. Kuriakose | 24. „ A. Thanu Pillai |

NOES 17.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. L. A. Bishop | 9. Dr. K. Raman Tampi |
| 2. „ I. C. Chacko | 10. Mr. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar |
| 3. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai | 11. „ T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar |
| 4. „ K. George | 12. Rao Bahadur K. V. Ranga-
swami Aiyangar |
| 5. „ P. Gomatinayakam Pillai | 13. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson |
| 6. „ P. N. Krishna Pillai | 14. „ R. Vaidyalingom Pillai |
| 7. Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan
Pillai | 15. „ A. Vipani |
| 8. Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran
Pillai | 16. „ L. A. Lampard |
| | 17. „ S. Piraviperumal Pillai |

NEUTRALS—5.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mr. D. Francis | 4. Mr. P. S. Mahomed |
| 2. „ D. C. Joseph | 5. „ H. B. Mahomed Rowther. |
| 3. „ N. R. Krishnan | |

The motion was declared carried.

PRESIDENT : The second part of the resolution runs as follows:—

“and that, where such registry or auction already effected is found to be detrimental to the public interests they should be acquired by the Government under the Land Acquisition Regulation.”

The motion was put and lost.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result :—

AYES—17.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. V. Chellam Pillai | 10. Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai |
| 2. „ A. S. Damodaran Asan | 11. „ V. J. Oommen |
| 3. „ A. G. Menon | 12. „ Muruvelil Pachu Pillai |
| 4. „ Ittoop Ittechan | 13. „ K. Padmanabha Panikkar |
| 5. „ R. Kesava Pillai | 14. „ K. G. Paramesvaran Pillai |
| 6. „ N. K. Krishna Pillai | 15. „ L. R. Raja Raja Varma |
| 7. „ V. S. Krishna Pillai | Koil Tampuran |
| 8. „ Tariatu Kunjithomman | 16. „ R. Raman Pillai |
| 9. „ A. C. Kuriakose | 17. „ A. Thanu Pillai |

NOES—24.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. L. A. Bishop | 13. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson |
| 2. „ I. C. Chacko | 14. „ R. Vaidyalingom Pillai |
| 3. „ R. Dhanukoti Pillai | 15. „ A. Vipin |
| 4. „ K. George | 16. „ D. Francis |
| 5. „ P. Gomatinayakam Pillai | 17. „ D. C. Joseph |
| 6. „ P. N. Krishna Pillai | 18. „ K. N. Kesavan Namputiri- |
| 7. Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai | pad |
| 8. Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran | 19. „ Tamarapallil Kochuto- |
| Pillai | mman |
| 9. Dr. K. Raman Tampi | 20. „ L. A. Lampard |
| 10. Mr. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar | 21. „ P. S. Mahomed |
| 11. „ T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar. | 22. „ H. B. Mahomed Rowther |
| 12. Rao Bahadur K. V. Ranga- | 23. „ S. Piraviperumal Pillai |
| swami Aiyangar | 24. Revati Nal Rama Varma Raja |

NEUTRALS—3.

1. Mr. Matthew Murikkan
2. „ G. P. Nilakanta Pillai
3. „ K. P. Nilakanta Pillai

The motion was lost.

RESOLUTION *re* LICENSING OF TREES FOR TAPPING.

PRESIDENT : The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. Pachu Pillai.

Licensing of trees for tapping.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI (Shertallai): *This Council recommends to the Government the very urgent necessity of definitely fixing the number of trees to be tapped for one single liquor shop, assigning only so many trees for each Rs. 100 of the auctioned sum, and also of decreasing the number of trees tapped along with decreasing the number of shops.*